

1 1. A method comprising:
 2 obtaining a list of known contacts on a wireless
 3 device, including a first contact in-range from the device
 4 and a second contact being out-of-range from the device;
 5 automatically establishing a communication route
 6 from the device to a first contact; and
 7 automatically establishing a communication route
 8 from the device to a second contact through the first
 9 contact.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining a list of
 2 known contacts includes acquiring information from a list
 3 of addressees on a device.

1 3. The method of claim 1 including automatically
 2 exchanging lists of contacts with in-range devices,
 3 comparing the lists of contacts, and identifying common
 4 contacts in said lists.

1 4. The method of claim 3 including exchanging lists
 2 of common contacts between two devices with other in-range
 3 devices.

1 5. The method of claim 1 including storing
 2 information sufficient to establish a communication route
 3 from said device to said second contact.

1 6. The method of claim 1 including storing
2 information related to said first contact.

1 7. The method of claim 6 including storing
2 information about whether said second contact is active.

1 8. The method of claim 7 including sharing
2 information with other in-range devices about whether said
3 first contact is active.

1 9. The method of claim 1 including periodically
2 updating information about in-range devices.

1 10. The method of claim 1 including storing an
2 alternative communication route to said second contact.

1 ~~11.~~ An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enables a processor-based system to:
3 obtain a list of known contacts on a wireless
4 device, including a first contact in-range from the device
5 and a second contact being out-of-range from the device;
6 automatically establish a communication route
7 from the device to a first contact; and

8 automatically establish a communication route
9 from the device to a second contact through the first
10 contact.

1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 acquire information from a list of addressees on a device.

1 13. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 automatically exchange lists of contacts with in-range
4 devices, compare the lists of contacts, and identify common
5 contacts in said lists.

1 14. The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 exchange lists of common contacts between two devices with
4 other in-range devices.

1 15. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 store information sufficient to establish a communication
4 route from said device to said second contact.

1 16. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 store information related to said first contact.

1 17. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 store information about whether said second contact is
4 active.

1 18. The article of claim 17 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 share information with other in-range devices about whether
4 said first contact is active.

1 19. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 periodically update information about in-range devices.

1 20. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 store an alternative communication route to said second
4 contact.

1 21. A system comprising:
2 a processor;

3 a storage coupled to said processor storing
 4 instructions that enable the processor to:
 5 obtain a list of known contacts on a
 6 wireless device, including a first contact in-range from
 7 the device and a second contact being out-of-range from the
 8 device;
 9 automatically establish a communication
 10 route from the device to a first contact; and
 11 automatically establish a communication
 12 route from the device to a second contact through the first
 13 contact.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
 2 stores instructions that enable the processor to acquire
 3 information from a list of addressees on a device.

1 23. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
 2 stores instructions that enable the processor to
 3 automatically exchange of lists of contacts with in-range
 4 devices, compare the lists of contacts, and identify common
 5 contacts in said lists.

1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein said storage
 2 stores instructions that enable the processor to exchange
 3 lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-
 4 range devices.

1 25. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store
3 information sufficient to establish a communication route
4 from said device to said second contact.

1 26. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store
3 information related to said first contact.

1 27. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store
3 information about whether said second contact is active.

1 28. The system of claim 27 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to share
3 information with other in-range devices about whether said
4 first contact is active.

1 29. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to
3 periodically update information about in-range devices.

1 30. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store an
3 alternative communication route to said second contact.